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FOREST RESEARCH NOTES

U.S.DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
CALIFORNIA FOREST AND RANGE
EXPERIMENT STATION *

M.W.TALBOT, Acting Director

Research Note No. 40 November 15, 1944

PRODUCTION OF LUMBER, LATH, AND SHINGLES IN CALIFORNIA, 1943

In cooperation with the Bureau of the Census and the U. S. Department of Commerce, the Forest Service presents herewith its annual statement of lumber production in California and Nevada. This statement is based upon complete returns, and will therefore agree with final production statistics compiled by the Bureau of the Census.

The estimate of 1943 cut indicates that the lumber industry in California maintained production remarkably well in view of wartime difficulties of operation centering mainly about manpower and equipment shortages. Lumber sawed in 1943 was about 1 percent more than the volume sawed in 1942, and about the same percentage more than in the all-time peak year of 1941.

The production data in tables 1, 2, and 3 are based upon reports from 283 active mills in the California pine region, and on 95 active mills in the redwood region. Included in these totals are 13 active shingle mills - 7 in the pine region, and 6 in the redwood region.

For the entire State and all species, the production of 2,352,592 M feet b.m. (Table 1) is about 1 percent more than the total State-wide production in 1942. There were no significant changes in the production of ponderosa pine or redwood. The cut of Douglas-fir rose about 13 percent, while white fir production increased about 36 percent. In the past two years there has been about a 75 percent increase in the utilization of white fir. There were marked declines of 19.7 percent and 22.8 percent in the production of sugar pine and incense cedar respectively, and even greater declines in the production of other softwoods, such as Port Orford cedar and Sitka spruce. There was a 21.1 percent decline in the production of lath, and 15.6 percent falloff in the output of shingles. Lumber stocks at sawmills decreased from 618,397 M feet b.m. on December 31, 1942 to 467,782 M feet b.m. on December 31, 1943, which is about a 24 percent decrease. In the past two years stocks have decreased about 45 percent. Active mills

in the State rose from 321 in 1942 to 376 in 1943. It is estimated that there were in addition 103 mills which were idle throughout all of 1943, but most of these were small mills of low potential output.

In the pine region lumber production in 1943 was 1,726,832 M feet b.m. (Table 2), or approximately 0.7 percent below the output in 1942. Ponderosa pine represented about 65.7 percent of the total regional cut, followed by sugar pine representing 12.2 percent. The production of white fir and Douglas-fir is almost the same. The 36 mills cutting 15 million feet or more represented 76.6 percent of the total cut. There were 41 more active sawmills in the pine region in 1943 than in 1942, due mainly to an increase in the number of small mills. There were 5 less idle mills in 1943 than in 1942. Lumber stocks declined 6.2 percent during the year, and although there was a decrease in the production of lath, the output of shingles remained about the same.

In the redwood region lumber production of 625,760 M feet b.m. (Table 3) was approximately 5.7 percent greater than the 1942 output. The 461 million feet of redwood cut in 1943 was almost the same as in 1942. Most of the over-all regional increase in production was due to an upswing in the output of Douglas-fir, which rose from 119 million feet to 151 million feet, or 26.9 percent. White fir production in the redwood region increased from 1,448 M feet b.m. in 1942 to 7,479 M feet b.m. in 1943. The 11 mills cutting over 10 million feet accounted for 78.9 percent of the regional production. There were 95 active mills in the region in 1943 (including 6 shingle mills), as contrasted to 75 mills in 1942 - which includes 11 shingle mills. Lumber stocks have declined in the past two years from about 243 million feet on January 1, 1942 to about 76 million feet at the close of 1943, or 68.7 percent. The decline in 1943 alone was approximately 52.1 percent. There were also declines in the production of both lath and shingles.

Table 1:- Production of Lumber, by Kind of Wood, and of Lath and Shingles
California, 1942 and 1943 1/

Species	Lumber production (M feet, b.m.)				Change in 1943 from 1942
	1942		1943		
	Quantity	Percent	Quantity	Percent	percent
Ponderosa pine	1,135,783	48.7	1,135,652	48.3	0.0
Redwood 2/	461,552	19.8	460,829	19.6	-0.2
Douglas-fir	290,216	12.5	328,395	13.9	+13.1
Sugar pine	262,787	11.3	211,047	9.0	-19.7
White fir	132,659	5.7	181,017	7.7	+36.4
Incense cedar	37,369	1.6	28,856	1.2	-22.8
Port Orford cedar	5,061	0.2	3,200	0.1	-36.8
Sitka spruce	3,290	0.1	2,100	0.1	-36.2
Other softwoods	0	0.0	1,317	0.1	0
Hardwoods	1,324	0.1	179	0.0+	-86.5
TOTAL	2,330,041	100.0	2,352,592	100.0	+ 1.0
Lath (thousands)	12,908		10,185		-21.1
Shingles(squares) 3/	55,235		46,603		-15.6
Stocks of lumber, Dec. 31	618,397		467,782		-24.4
Number of active mills reporting	321		378		+17.7

1/ Nevada mills idle in 1943.
2/ Includes big tree (Sequoia gigantea) in pine region.
3/ Includes data for shakes reported as such.

Table 2:- Production of Lumber, by Kind of Wood and Class of Mill, and of Lath and Shingles
California Pine Region 1/ 1943

Class of mill	Total mills: Idle	Total mills: Active 2/	Lumber sawed (M feet, b.m.): Ponderosa pine	Sugar pine	Douglas fir	White fir	Incense cedar	Other softwoods	Hardwoods	Total: Quantity	Total: Percent	Lumber on hand: Jan. 1, 1943	Lumber on hand: Dec. 31, 1943	Lath	Shingles 3/
	No.	No.										MBM	MBM	M pcs	Squares
8 (50MM and over)	0	4	450,993	28,116	8,977	9,798	2,978			500,862	29.0	77,719	68,324	2,037	
7 (25MM to 50MM)	0	16(19)	304,623	117,134	39,177	113,249	9,164			583,347	33.8	196,206	179,747		
6 (15MM to 25MM)	1	12(13)	139,030	31,449	52,106	13,728	2,044	101		238,458	13.8	91,184	87,921		
5 (10MM to 15MM)	0	7	55,620	8,375	13,255	6,570	795			84,615	4.9	14,924	11,260		
4 (5MM to 10MM)	0	20	75,179	14,802	29,913	17,610	8,024			145,528	8.4	10,475	23,886	663	
3 (1MM to 5MM)	5	56	82,615	8,772	28,566	8,811	5,168	1,199		135,131	7.8	26,283	18,650		
2 (500M to 1MM)	7	27	12,142	1,139	2,916	2,621	256	12		19,086	1.1	306	1,341		
1 (50M to 500M)	35	88	13,893	1,149	2,244	1,097	412	45	5	18,845	1.1	452	671	30	354
0 (Under 50M)	30	42	591	111	178	54	15	7	4	960	0.1	26	33	0	25
Shingle	1	7 (283)													736
All classes	79	279	1,134,686	211,047	177,332	173,538	28,856	1,364 4/	9 5/	1,726,832	100.0	417,575	391,833	2,730	1,115

1/ See footnote 1/ Table 3. No production reported for State of Nevada. Nevada mills (1 Class 3 and 4 Class 0) idle during 1943.
2/ See footnote 2/ Table 3. 3/ Includes shakes reported as such. 4/ Includes 1184 MBM noble fir, 126 MBM lodgepole pine, 47 MBM big tree, and 7 MBM western white pine. 5/ Entire hardwood cut is California black oak.

Table 3:- Production of Lumber, by Kind of Wood and Class of Mill, and of Lath and Shingles
California Redwood Region 1/ 1943

Class of mill	Total mills: Idle	Total mills: Active 2/	Lumber sawed (M feet, b.m.): Redwood	Douglas fir	White fir	Orford cedar	Sitka spruce	Ponderosa pine	Hardwoods	Total: Quantity	Total: Percent	Lumber on hand Jan. 1, 1943	Lumber on hand Dec. 31, 1943	Lath	Shingles 3/
	No.	No.										MBM	MBM	M pcs.	Squares
8 (50MM and over)	0	3(5)	300,257	48,176	3,606					352,039	56.3	123,677	48,834	4,223	30,961
5,6,and 7 4/ (10MM to 50MM)	0	6	109,126	27,912	3,873		1,097			142,008	22.7	23,715	19,362	3,232	6,765
4 (5MM to 10MM)	1	9(10)	30,204	36,598		2,921				69,723	11.1	10,210	6,757	0	0
3 (1MM to 5MM)	2	19	14,222	26,350		279	1,003	455		42,309	6.8	471	511	0	800
2 (500M to 1MM)	2	19	4,854	7,959				511		13,324	2.1	540	460	0	353
1 and 0 5/ (under 500M)	12	30	2,119	4,068					170 6/	6,357	1.0	0	25	0	360
Shingle	7	6													6,249
All classes	24	92(95)	460,782	151,063	7,479	3,200	2,100	966	170 6/	625,760	100.0	158,613	75,949	7,455	45,488

1/ Redwood region includes counties of Del Norte, Humboldt, western Mendocino, Sonoma, western Napa, Marin, Santa Clara, San Mateo, Monterey and Santa Cruz. Remainder of State considered the pine region.

2/ Figures in parenthesis indicate actual number of sawmills. For example in class 8, three operations report production of over 50 million feet, but two of these companies each operate two mills and report combined production of both mills as being over 50 million feet. Thus there are actually 5 sawmills which make 3 class 8 producing units.

3/ Includes shakes reported as such.

4/ Classes 5, 6, and 7 combined to avoid disclosing cut of individual mills. There are 2 mills in each of these 3 classes.

5/ Classes 0 and 1 combined to avoid disclosing cut of the 1 active class 0 mill.

6/ Includes 30 M.B.M. of California laurel and 140 M.B.M. of alder.

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